

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

Please add the following new claims 24-29:

—24. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

26. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

27. A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a

Serial No. 09/768,781

polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

(B3)

29. A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence. --